

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend claims 1-2, 4-12, and 14 as set forth in the complete listing below. Please cancel claims 3 and 13. Also, please add claims 15 and 16.

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

1. (Currently Amended) A soft drink bottle holding apparatus comprising:  
a first cylindrical section conforming to a soft drink bottle shoulder for insertion of said soft drink bottle there through, and a second cylindrical sections conforming to a soft drink bottle base for insertion of said base therein;

two or more struts, each of said two or more struts being fixedly attached at one end to said first cylindrical section and at another end to said second cylindrical section such that said first and second cylindrical sections are held in a spaced apart configuration;

a handle fixedly attached to one of said two or more struts;

wherein said first cylindrical section and said second cylindrical section are aligned axially thereby creating an apparatus for grasping and dispensing the contents of large, flexible, handle-less soft drink bottles.

2. (Currently Amended) The soft drink bottle holding apparatus according to claim 1 further comprising one or more support ribs, each of said one or more support ribs being fixedly attached to one of said two or more struts.

3. (Canceled).

4. (Currently Amended) The soft drink bottle holding apparatus according to claim 1 wherein said first and second cylindrical sections further comprise outer surfaces suitable for displaying text.

5. (Currently Amended) The soft drink bottle holding apparatus according to claim 1 wherein said second cylindrical section further comprises an inwardly tapered inner surface.

6. (Currently Amended) The soft drink bottle holding apparatus according to claim 1 wherein said second cylindrical section is smaller in diameter than said first cylindrical section.

7. (Currently Amended) The soft drink bottle holding apparatus according to claim 1 wherein said second cylindrical section further comprises an end cap.

8. (Currently Amended) The soft drink bottle holding apparatus according to claim 1 wherein said handle further comprises a plurality of fixedly attached, transverse raised ribs proximate one end.

9. (Currently Amended) The soft drink bottle holding apparatus according to claim 2 wherein said first and second cylindrical sections, said two or more struts, said handle, and said one or more support ribs are fabricated of plastic materials.

10. (Currently Amended) The soft drink bottle holding apparatus according to claim 9 wherein said first and second cylindrical sections, said two or more struts, said handle, and said one or more support ribs are molded as a unitized assembly.

11. (Currently Amended) The soft drink bottle holding apparatus according to claim 9 wherein said first and second cylindrical sections, said two or more struts, said handle, and said one or more support ribs are assembled using a bonding agent.

12. (Currently Amended) The soft drink bottle holding apparatus according to claim 2 wherein said first and second cylindrical sections, said two or more struts, said handle, and said one or more support ribs are fabricated of metallic materials.

13. (Canceled).

14. (Currently Amended) The soft drink bottle holding apparatus according to claim 2, wherein said first and second cylindrical sections display text on their outer surfaces for

advertising.

15. (New) The soft drink bottle holding apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said handle-less soft drink bottles are 2-liter bottles.

16. (New) The soft drink bottle holding apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said handle-less soft drink bottles are 3-liter bottles.